

25X1A2g

Country: France

C 21351

Subject: Political Influence of French Banking Interests

Place Acquired: 25X1A6a

Date "

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2.

(a) "What influence do the leading French bankers have in the government? The four largest banks being nationalized, their heads are civil servants and can have influence only in the sense that they are consulted as experts. Some of the more important private banks, such as Rothschild's and Lazard's, from time to time are able to exercise some influence on the government, mainly through personal family relationship.

(b) "If such influence is in evidence, in which particular political party is it more evident? It is doubtful if this question can be answered positively, but, if any party at all, it is possibly the Radical-Socialist party that can be pointed out in this respect.

(c) "Which individual bankers are active in this direction? It is less individual bankers than some of the banking houses that may be active in this connection, in the sense of the answer given to question (a).

(d) "Assuming that such activities are evidenced by financial contributions, which particular political parties receive such contributions? It is not believed that political parties are currently receiving contributions from banks.

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3. "In general, the impression that most people feel that the banks and the banking world do not have the weight today necessary to exercise any important influence on the political life."

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